



The City of San Diego

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program

Water Discharges from Private Property

When it rains or when water flows out of yards, over pavement and into streets, it flows directly into storm drains. Many people mistakenly believe this water gets cleaned or treated before reaching waterways. The truth is the sewer and water systems are separate from the storm water conveyance system. Sewer water gets treated, but everything that washes into the storm water conveyance system goes untreated directly into our rivers, creeks, bays and ocean. This causes beach closures and postings due to contamination. Releasing pollutants into the storm water collection system is a violation of the City Municipal Code, (43.0301).

Discharges from water pipes do happen. When they do occur the primary concern is not the water itself, but the substances it comes in contact with and carries to our storm water conveyance system polluting our beaches and waterways. It is imperative that these pollutants -- sediment, leaves, other organic or chemical matter -are prevented from entering the City's storm water conveyance system. That's why when water breaks occur, it's important to control, contain and capture the overflow to prevent contamination of our beaches, bays and reservoirs. Here are some storm water Best Management Practices you can adopt to keep our water-ways clean and safe:

Water Pipe Breaks on your property:

- Turn off water As Soon As Possible (ASAP) to control the flow.
- Provide containment (gravel and/or sand bags, etc.) that will prevent flow from discharging into the Storm Water Conveyance System. You may want to call a plumbing professional for assistance.
- Capture and dispose of the remaining debris (sediment, leaves, branches, trash, etc) that may be in the curb, gutter and street. Be sure to clean the curbs and gutters beyond your property - all the way to the nearest storm drain inlet.

Property owners are responsible for the proper maintenance and repair of the water pipes that extend from the City water meter on to your property.

Water Pipe Breaks in the City Right-of-Way: If you believe a water main break is effecting your property, or you see water oozing out of the ground through the pavement, please call the **Water Department emergency phone at (619) 515-3525.**

Flushing Water Lines: In flushing water lines, you are responsible to control, contain and capture all water and debris resulting from the activity.

Tips to help you prepare for an overflow-

- Provide routine and regular maintenance of your water pipes
- Locate and know how to operate your water shut-off valve
- Capture excess water to use on plants, lawns and shrubs
- Use a broom and dust pan to sweep-up residue instead of water
- Don't use "storm drains" on your property or in the City Right-of-Way to dispose of debris

Adopt these behaviors and help Clean up our beaches and bays.

Think Blue, San Diego. For more information, call (619) 235-1000, or log on to: www.thinkbluesd.org

**Think
&
Act
Blue**

